

# EMU

**RANGE:**

Australia

**HABITAT:**

Grasslands

**SIZE:**

**Height:** Average 5–6 feet tall

**Weight:** approximately 100 lbs.

**LIFE EXPECTANCY:**

Data Not Available

**DIET:**

**Wild:** Grass, herbs and some fruit

**Zoo:** Grazing on local grasses, pelleted grain, alfalfa, assorted vegetables and fruit.

**BEHAVIOR:**

Emus are fast runners and expert swimmers.

**REPRODUCTION:**

- Eggs are laid in the summer (December–April)
- Incubation last 1–2 months. Eggs are dark green to black and nearly 5 inches long. About 12 eggs per clutch seems to be the average.
- Males sit on the eggs until they hatch. The nest is flat and made of leaves and grass.

**POINTS OF INTEREST:**

- Ranchers do not care for Emus because they are considered competition with cattle. They are also known to knock down fences.
- In South Australia, an Emu-proof fence nearly 500 miles long is maintained in an attempt to restrict the birds, and warden police the barrier in vehicles.
- Emu quickly lose their fear of humans and can be dangerous because their strong kick which can break a man's leg.
- The males and females are hard to tell apart. Size and coloration are the same.
- They have rudimentary wings.
- The bills are broad and compressed. The head and neck are covered with feathers.

**STATUS:**

Common

# theZOO

L O U I S V I L L E



*photo: Kara Bussabarger*

Order:	<b>Casuariformes</b>
Family:	<b>Dromidae</b>
Genus:	<b>Dromaius</b>
species:	<b>novaehollandiae</b>